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Subject: Weekly Compass: November 15, 2016



Weekly Update: 11/15/2016

Welcome to the Weekly Compass, your gateway to information about recent and upcoming ORD activities. If you have ideas for the Weekly Compass, please send them to the editors. To see each full article on ORD@work, please click on the text that is hyperlinked.

Quick Updates

- Visit OPM's online resource center for up-to-date information regarding the OPM incidents.
- For those in the DC area or visiting DC, check out commuting information for options to consider during Metro's SafeTrack project.
- Deadline for Scheduling 2016 "Use or Lose" Leave is November 26, and must be used by midnight on January 7, 2017
- OSP announced the final FY17 RARE projects.
- On November 9th, the new Risk Assessment Forum Charter was signed.
- Show Some Love and donate to CFC. Help ORD reach its 2016 goal of \$50,847!

- This year's Federal Benefits Open Season is November 14 - December 12, 2016.
- Employee Anti-Harassment Training must be completed by December 31.
- Nominations for the Sammies are due by January 15.
- You can read the This Week @ EPA newsletter [here](#).
- Check out the latest *It All Starts with Science* blog post.
- Upcoming webinars:
 - EPA Tools and Resources webinar--IRIS: Wednesday, November 16, 3-4pm ET
 - CompTox Communities of Practice: Using Computational Toxicology Tools to Enable Risk-Based Chemical Safety Decision Making- Combining ToxCast and Zebrafish Data: Thursday, November 17, 11am-12pm ET
 - Public Teleconference of the Science Advisory Board Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee Augmented for the Review of EPA's draft RDX IRIS Assessment: Thursday, November 17, 2-5pm ET
 - SERDP & ESTCP Webinar Series: Novel Coatings Systems for Use as High Performance Chemical Resistant Powder Topcoats: Thursday, November 17, 12-1:30pm ET

Faces of ORD: NHEERL's Brian Chorley

Messages from Management:

- Message from the Administrator highlighting the Agency's continued commitment to protecting public health and the environment.
 - Message from the Administrator's Chief of Staff about next steps on the transition process.
 - Read Dr. Burke's memo on ORD's commitment to a respectful and harassment-free workplace.
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In the Lab:

Tire Crumb Update

ORD, OLEM, ATSDR and CPSC are preparing a draft of the *Status Report on the Federal Research Action Plan on Tire Crumb*. The report, which will be released in the coming weeks, will summarize the progress that has been made in implementing the study. The report will include the peer reviewed Literature Review and Data Gap Analysis, along with a discussion of next steps.

50th Anniversary of NIEHS

Tomorrow, ORD will participate in the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) 50th Anniversary Capitol Hill Reception. The event will commemorate 50 years of environmental research at NIH and include remarks by NIEHS Director Linda Birnbaum and NIH

Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak. The reception is hosted by Congressman David Price (NC) and Congresswoman Renee Ellmers (NC).

MWiz Launch

A beta version of MWiz, an interactive web application that connects communities to EPA sustainable materials management tools and resources, is now live. Sustainable materials management is a systems approach to using and reusing materials more productively over their entire life cycle. EPA has hundreds of websites containing thousands of documents, tools, and reports on sustainable materials management. Since it can be difficult for communities to find what they need among that information, MWiz was developed to address this. The tool will provide users with customized reports of the EPA tools and resources that they select.

NAS Workshop on Personal Environmental Exposure Measurements

This week, NERL will participate in the National Academy of Sciences Workshop on Personal Environmental Exposure Measurements in D.C. The workshop will address the growing access citizens have to information and data about personal and community environmental exposures. The workshop discussions will focus on the reasons people are looking to personal sensor technologies, increased use of personal biological testing, and emerging public web-based information like pooled community-level data as sources of information and how they are using them.

2016 U.S.-China Joint Commission Meeting

This biennial Joint Commission Meeting convenes senior science managers from the U.S (NSF, USGS, NIH, NIST, DOE, and EPA) and U.S. State Dept officials along with science leads from the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) to discuss how to enhance existing cooperation and future bilateral and S&T engagements. At last week's meeting Dr. John Holdren, Director of the White House OSTP, emphasized the need for transparency and sharing of data, as well as meeting fiscal support agreements to cooperative science ventures. ORD presented on next generation air quality technologies, vehicle emissions and exposures, and the need to address both short-and long-lived greenhouse pollutants from a systems perspective to better address intervention. OAR spoke about the international cookstove efforts between the U.S. and China as part of the Coalition for Clean Cookstoves.

Grantee Publication: Measuring Chemical Exposures among Pregnant Women

ORD STAR grantee Dr. Tracey Woodruff and colleagues have published a new review paper, "Environmental influences on reproductive health: the importance of chemical exposures" in *Fertility and Sterility*. The authors summarize recent evidence on chemical exposures during pregnancy, adverse health outcomes, maternal body burden, and placental transfer and fetal exposure. The paper also provides a discussion on environmental disparities, future research directions and recommendations for prevention.

Accolades:

Leadership Triangle Award

Leadership Triangle, a non-profit organization in North Carolina's Research Triangle, recently announced that NERL's Kelly Witter has been selected as the winner of a 2016 Goodman Award. Kelly will receive the award in the Goodman Fellow Category for demonstrating exemplary leadership, and will receive the award at the Leadership Triangle Awards Gala on December 7.

In the Office:

OPM Phishing Emails

Last week, hackers released tens of thousands of phishing emails to entrap victims of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) data breach. The emails include attachments or links that are infected with ransomware. These emails may appear to be from an "account manager" at OPM, or may notify individuals of "suspicious movements" on their account. If you receive a phishing email like the one described, please do not click on any links or attachments. Forward the email to SPAM@epa.gov with a copy to the ORD Primary Information Security Officer (ISO) Caroline Parton and your OSIM Customer Service Representative (CSR). After forwarding the email to respective groups, please move this email to the "Junk Folder" in outlook and delete the email.

If you open a file or click on a link in an unusual or unexpected email, immediately report this to the EPA Call Center 1-866-411-4372, Option 1 to report security incidents. Security incident tickets transfer to the EPA's Computer Security Incident Response Capability (CSIRC) team. CSIRC then coordinates with the organizational Primary ISO and the appropriate operational support staff to investigate.

In the News:

CitySpace News Release

Region 4 issued a news release picked up by a local media outlet on the Cityspace air sensor research project, a collaborative effort between EPA, Shelby County Health Department, and the Memphis Area Transit Authority. Ron Williams (NERL) led the development of the lower cost, air pollution sensor pods being deployed and tested at 16 locations in the Memphis, Tennessee. The project aims to better understand how this emerging technology can add valuable information about air pollution patterns in neighborhoods.

In the Community:

STEM Outreach Events

Yesterday:

- NERL's Lauren Bamford taught 8th grade classes about overfishing using the game Bean Fishin' at Culbreth Middle School in Chapel Hill, N.C.
- NHEERL's David DeMarini spoke at a STEM Career Panel at Wake Tech Community College.

Today:

- EPA-RTP employees are teaching 7th graders from Carrington Middle School in Durham about air quality and climate.

Tomorrow:

- EPA-RTP STEM will lead a lung capacity activity for 7th grade classes at Reedy Creek Middle School in Raleigh.

November 17:

- EPA-RTP will host high school students from the Triad Math and Science Academy in Greensboro to teach them about energy, climate change, and careers at EPA. Through the EPA-RTP Speakers Bureau, EPA-RTP STEM will give a presentation on the effects of the built environment on humans and ecology for the Association of Construction Professionals in Raleigh.

Faces of ORD: NHEERL's Brian Chorley

Every other issue of the EPA Weekly Compass features one of ORD's outstanding employees. If you would like to nominate someone to be featured, please contact Kelsey Maloney or Megan Maguire.



Brian with his two sons, Evan and Shane, at the world-famous Cafe du monde in New Orleans during this year's Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting

Name: Brian Chorley

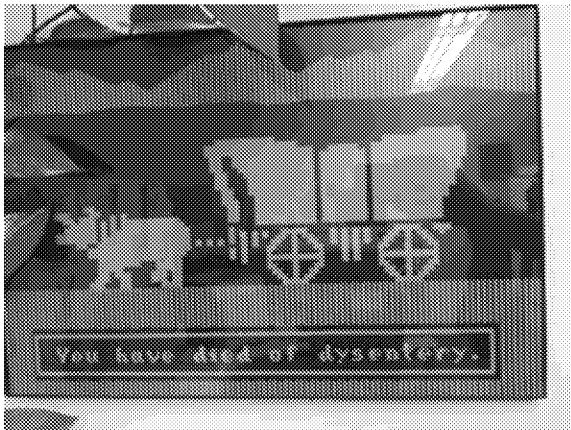
Job/Position: Research Biologist

L/C/O or Program: NHEERL's Integrated Systems Toxicology Division (ISTD) in Research Triangle Park, NC

1. When did you start at EPA? July 5, 2010. I'm awful at remembering dates, so this was a good day!

2. What's the most interesting thing about your job? The potential that research we do can have a direct impact on the regulatory decisions of the EPA. As a research investigator, you believe that what you do has scientific relevance, but the application of your studies is not always apparent. Here, we have defined challenges and we can therefore leverage our research and expertise to meet those important needs.

3. What's the most interesting thing in your workspace? I have a variety of my kids' artwork plastered all over my office that range from heart-tugging to terrifying. However, probably the most asked about thing that I have is a 1-bit pixelated graphic that pictures an ox pulling a 19th century stage coach with the title "You have died of dysentery." I call it my "Gap" generation (between Gen X and Millennials) litmus test. If you immediately recognize it, you are part of this transitional generation. Most of the time, however, I get a lot of perplexed looks.



Said picture in my office. Ignore the ivy growing over it, that's not part of the test.

4. What's your favorite thing to do (besides come to work)? Hanging out with my two sons - 4 and 6-year old boys. Not at home though, because all they want to do is watch TV and torture our pets. But once they are elsewhere, they mostly behave and love to play and have fun. It's nice to see them experience things and activities for the first time. It's like reliving being a kid again.

5. What's your favorite lunch spot? I like to find a quiet spot around the lake here at EPA-RTP to relax and collect my thoughts. I'm not going to say exactly where because I pretty much want to be left alone for that 30 minutes -- introvert recharge.

6. If you could have one superpower, what would it be? To speed up contracts?

7. What is your favorite song or musical artist? I like a lot of different types of music and artists, but I am fanatic about Van Halen. Eddie on guitar is raw talent perfected. Doesn't matter who the frontman is (Roth, Hagar, or even Gary Cherone [yes, the More Than Words guy]). All indications is that EVH is a jerk in real life, but you forget all of that when he rips out Eruption live in concert while your ears bleed from the amplified harmonics and you become entranced by the precision of the lightning-fast hammer-ons and pull-offs.

8. What are you most excited for this fall? In September, I was in Europe for a road trip with a couple of buddies from grade school and our wives. We started in Brussels and ended in Munich for Oktoberfest. We're all turning 40 this year and this was a once in a lifetime trip for us.